

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

1. (Currently Amended) A metal carrier for a catalyst comprising:

a honeycomb structure made of ferritic stainless steel and shaped in a cylindrical form, said honeycomb structure having a plurality of air vents, the air vents being substantially equal in size to each other and ~~disposed in concentric rings around an axis of said honeycomb structure,~~ the honeycomb structure having alternating waved plates and base plates, the waved plates having sections that are substantially flat, and each of the base plates having an inner and an outer surface being disposed against the flat sections of adjoining ones of the waved plates located inwardly and outwardly thereof, respectively;

a cylindrical case covering an outer peripheral surface of the honeycomb structure, wherein the cylindrical case is composed of ferritic stainless steel containing Mo, said Mo content in the ferritic stainless steel is in the range of  $0.30 \text{ wt\%} \leq \text{Mo} \leq 2.50 \text{ wt\%}$ ; and

a catalyst layer being formed on exposed surfaces of said honeycomb structure and on an interior surface of said cylindrical case, and since the material of the case is the same as that of the honeycomb structure, a coefficient of linear expansion of the case is substantially the same as a coefficient of linear expansion of the honeycomb structure, thereby suppressing thermal deformation of the case,

wherein the plurality of air vents existing at an outermost position of the honeycomb structure is formed by cooperation of an entire inner face of the case and a waved plate of the honeycomb structure.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Original) The metal carrier for a catalyst according to claim 1, wherein the catalyst layer is a noble metal formed on the honeycomb structure.

7. (Original) The metal carrier for a catalyst according to claim 6, wherein the noble metal is platinum.

8. (Currently Amended) A metal carrier for a catalyst comprising:

a honeycomb structure made of ferritic stainless steel and having a catalyst layer formed thereon, said honeycomb structure having a plurality of air vents, the air vents being substantially equal in size to each other ~~and disposed in concentric rings around an axis of said honeycomb structure,~~ the honeycomb structure having alternating waved plates and base plates, the waved plates having sections that are substantially flat, and each of the base plates having an inner and an outer surface being disposed against the flat sections of adjoining ones of the waved plates located inwardly and outwardly thereof, respectively;

a case covering an outer surface of the honeycomb structure, wherein the case is composed of ferritic stainless steel containing Mo, said Mo content in the ferritic stainless steel is in the range of  $0.30 \text{ wt\%} \leq \text{Mo} \leq 2.50 \text{ wt\%}$ ,

wherein said catalyst layer being formed on exposed surfaces of said honeycomb structure and on an interior surface of said cylindrical case, and since the material of the case is the same as that of the honeycomb structure, a coefficient of linear expansion of the case is substantially the same as a coefficient of linear expansion of the honeycomb structure, thereby suppressing thermal deformation of the case, and

wherein the plurality of air vents existing at an outermost position of the honeycomb structure is formed by cooperation of an entire inner face of the case and a waved plate of the honeycomb structure.

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Original) The metal carrier for a catalyst according to claim 8, wherein the catalyst layer is a noble metal formed on the honeycomb structure.

14. (Original) The metal carrier for a catalyst according to claim 13, wherein the noble metal is platinum.

15. (Currently Amended) A metal carrier for a catalyst comprising:

a honeycomb structure made of ferritic stainless steel, said honeycomb structure having a plurality of air vents, ~~the air vents being~~ which are substantially equal in size to

each other and disposed in concentric rings around an axis of said honeycomb structure, the honeycomb structure having alternating waved plates and base plates, the waved plates having sections that are substantially flat, and each of the base plates having an inner and an outer surface being disposed against the flat sections of adjoining ones of the waved plates located inwardly and outwardly thereof, respectively;

a case covering an outer peripheral surface of the honeycomb structure, wherein the case is composed of ferritic stainless steel containing Mo, said Mo content in the ferritic stainless steel is 1.2 wt%; and

a catalyst layer being formed on exposed surfaces of said honeycomb structure and on an interior surface of said cylindrical case, and since the material of the case is the same as that of the honeycomb structure, a coefficient of linear expansion of the case is substantially the same as a coefficient of linear expansion of the honeycomb structure, thereby suppressing thermal deformation of the case, wherein the plurality of air vents existing at an outermost position of the honeycomb structure is formed by cooperation of an entire inner face of the case and a waved plate of the honeycomb structure.

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Previously Presented) The metal carrier for a catalyst according to claim 15, wherein the catalyst layer is a noble metal formed on the honeycomb structure.

19. (Previously Presented) The metal carrier for a catalyst according to claim 18, wherein the noble metal is platinum.

20. (Currently Amended) A metal carrier for a catalyst comprising:

a honeycomb structure made of ferritic stainless steel and having a catalyst layer formed thereon, said honeycomb structure having a plurality of air vents, ~~the air vents being~~ which are substantially equal in size to each other and disposed in concentric rings around an axis of said honeycomb structure, the honeycomb structure having alternating waved plates and base plates, the waved plates having sections that are substantially flat, and each of the base plates having an inner and an outer surface being disposed against the flat sections of adjoining ones of the waved plates located inwardly and outwardly thereof, respectively;

a case covering an outer surface of the honeycomb structure, wherein the case is composed of ferritic stainless steel containing Mo, said Mo content in the ferritic stainless steel is 1.20wt%,

wherein said catalyst layer being formed on exposed surfaces of said honeycomb structure and on an interior surface of said cylindrical case, and since the material of the case is the same as that of the honeycomb structure, a coefficient of linear expansion of the case is substantially the same as a coefficient of linear expansion of the honeycomb structure, thereby suppressing thermal deformation of the case, and

wherein the plurality of air vents existing at an outermost position of the honeycomb structure is formed by cooperation of an entire inner face of the case and a waved plate of the honeycomb structure.

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Cancelled)

23. (Previously Presented) The metal carrier for a catalyst according to claim 20, wherein the catalyst layer is a noble metal formed on the honeycomb structure.

24. (Previously Presented) The metal carrier for a catalyst according to claim 23, wherein the noble metal is platinum.